



PROCEEDINGS

from the
Environmental/Conservation Education Summit
held August 19, 2005
at the Springfield Conservation Nature Center

Attending (full organization profiles are included in the EE/CE Directory)

Name	Organization
Howard Fisk	Boy Scouts of America
Dave Fraley	City Utilities of Springfield
Michelle Garand	Community Partnership of the Ozarks
Fawn Warner	Discovery Center of Springfield
Mike Crocker	Dickerson Park Zoo
Carol Snyder	Future Farmers of America
Linda Du Brul	Girl Scouts of Dogwood Trails Council, Inc.
Dorothy Thurman	Greater Ozarks Audubon Society
Tim Smith	Greene County Resource Mgt.
Jay Barber; Linda Choris	Missouri Department of Conservation
Victoria Lovejoy; Valerie Robinson	Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Emily Sturgess Cleek	Missouri Geographic Alliance
Dr. Janice Greene Celeste Prussia	Missouri State University - Bull Shoals Field Station
Chuck Kroeger	Missouri State University - Environmental Services
Dr. Jill Black; Dr. Melida Gutierrez; Doug Gouzie	Missouri State University - Geography, Geology & Planning
Elizabeth Aull	Nestle Purina PetCare Company
Leslie Carrier; Lori Tack	Ozark Greenways, Inc.
Barbara Lucks	Show Me Yards & Neighbors

Bob Hamilton; Ronda Gulley	Solid Waste Mgt. District "O"
Karen McGinnis	Springfield-Greene County Health Department
Vera Florea	Springfield-Greene County Library
Melvin Johnson	Springfield/Greene County Park Department
Barbara Lucks Kimberly White	Springfield Public Works Solid Waste Mgt.
Todd Wagner Carrie Lamb	Springfield Public Works Storm Water Services
Becky Fay	University of Mo. Extension, 4-H
Mike Kromrey	Watershed Committee of the Ozarks
John Sutton	Wilson's Creek National Battlefield
Misty Mitchell; Sara Parker; Laura Stroup	Wonders of Wildlife
Marie Steinwachs	Facilitator

Barbara Lucks gave brief reports for those who were unable to attend: ArborCare of the Ozarks, Bradfield Products, Commercial Metals, Computer Recycling Center, James River Basin Partnership, Jason Heinline Architect, Master Gardeners, Ozark Water and Environmental Research Institute, and Table Rock Lake Water Quality.

Wish List Brainstorming

From the original wish lists provided by several organizations (included in full text later in these proceedings), Marie summarized the identified issues and asked the group to further brainstorm community needs. Each member of the group was then asked to vote on 3 issues they would like to see discussed in more detail during the summit. The results were as follows, in order of group priority:

- ◆ Promote recycling at community and sports events, at schools and colleges (18 votes)
- ◆ Create more wildlife conservation areas/green spaces in homes, new developments, schools (12 votes)
- ◆ Improve area water quality through riparian restoration of the Little Sac and James Rivers; increase Stream Team activity, ensure proper septic and wastewater equipment and usage (11 votes)

- ◆ Increase innovative environmental/conservation education, including a passport for all the area initiatives, programs for underprivileged and innovative schools, annual Envirothon and Scout Odyssey (9 votes)
- ◆ Raise awareness of the importance of wildlife conservation, including protection of local endangered species, increased use of conservation programs provided by the Zoo, Audubon, Doling Park and Conservation Dept.; development/use of outdoor classroom curriculum (6 votes)
- ◆ Increase watershed education in schools, including 4th Grade Water Festival, 4th grade hands-on education and community environmental problem solving (6 votes)
- ◆ More litter abatement programs for roads, streets, rivers and streams (5 votes)
- ◆ Develop a central clearinghouse (e.g., website, calendar) for all area EE/CE programs to consolidate info (5 votes)
- ◆ Develop a way to coordinate volunteers (Master Naturalist, Health Dept. Community Heroes, Americorps, CERT) for environmental and conservation activities (5 votes)
- ◆ Get "top-down" support from R-12 school district for system-wide recycling program and EE/CE education
- ◆ Air quality education
- ◆ Land purchase for Future Farmers of America

Strategizing on EE/CE Priorities

The group used the last hour to discuss the top 3 issues identified as priorities for this summit. The time restriction did not allow discussion around every important issue. Please see the "Wish List" section for more details on these issues. Following is a summary of the strategizing for the top 3 issues.

1. Promote recycling (and recycling education) at community and sports events, at schools and colleges

Organizations currently working on recycling and education

Solid Waste Management District O

Springfield Solid Waste Program

University Extension 4-H

Missouri State University

Nestle' Purina PetCare

Ideas for increasing/improving recycling

Use community volunteers to pick up recyclables after major events.
Volunteers get to attend the events for free.

Ask Anheuser-Busch to help promote recycling at Cardinals games.

Provide more public service announcements and consumer education at recycling centers.

Investigate the use of beverage container deposits.

Research model programs used in other cities.

Have "trash police" at various locations to promote proper recycling procedures.

Barriers to recycling

Outside Greene County there is no standard for what materials are accepted at recycling programs, how the materials need to be sorted, etc. This produces confusion, materials contamination and hurts participation.

We need to overcome the idea that recycling has to make a profit. Many people/community leaders think that it needs to be profitable in order for it to benefit the community.

It would be difficult to pass a container deposit in Missouri. Columbia was the only city that succeeded in passing one, and the deposit was repealed last year.

Missouri has no shortage of space at landfills. This is a disincentive for recycling.

The conservative population of this area tends not to support more regulation.

2. Create more wildlife conservation areas/green spaces in homes, new developments and schools.

Organizations currently working on conservation

Discovery Center (first LEED building)

Ozark Greenway

Solid Waste Management District O

MO Dept. of Conservation (Grow Native, Nature Center, Naturescaping)

Wonders of Wildlife

Dickerson Park Zoo

Greene County Planning & Zoning

Show-Me Yards and Neighbors

Springfield Storm Water Program (flood plain acquisitions)

University Extension

Audubon

Ideas for increasing the use of conservation/green spaces

Continue floodplain acquisitions.

Talk to neighbors in areas around green spaces to increase understanding.

Work with schools.

Foster public/private partnerships.

Collaborate on new linear parks and Greenways trails.

Develop new design standards for developers that encourage conservation areas.

Develop and highlight models of conservation development (e.g., the new Habitat development)

Provide signage for demonstration projects.

Get people outdoors more!

Barriers to increasing the use of conservation/green spaces

Traditional thinking is that cultivated space is preferable.

There is a perception of profit loss if developers set aside conservation land.

The upkeep and maintenance of green spaces requires resources.

Vector control ordinances may issue a mixed message.

Many people suffer from "nature deficit disorder" and do not value wild areas.

There is a political and public mindset against conservation areas.

3. Improve area water quality (through riparian restoration of the Little Sac and James Rivers; increase Stream Team activity; ensure proper septic and wastewater equipment and usage).

Organizations currently working on recycling and education

Girl Scouts (Stream Teams, etc.)

University Extension (Water Festival, storm drain stenciling)

MO Department of Conservation

Springfield Storm Water Program

MO Geographical Alliance (has \$ for Stream Teams)

MO Department of Natural Resources

Springfield Parks Department (Stream Teams, trails maintenance)

Adult Stream Teams & monitoring

High School monitoring

Watershed Committee (Adopt-a-Stream, kiosk, handbook and youth activities)

Watershed Groups - JRBP, OWERI, etc.

Other watershed groups - JRBP, OWERI, etc.

Greene County Health Department (measures for e-coli)

Missouri State University (storm water improvements on campus)

Ideas for improving water quality

Lend support for the proposed storm water initiative

Foster more partners in education, water sampling.

Develop MSU demonstration sites for storm water and wastewater management.

Encourage (and direct?) more MSU water quality research.

Provide free drop off and/or pick up for large items prior to stream clean ups. Dumping in streams usually increases before well-publicized event.

Bring back an identifiable symbol for anti-littering (remember the crying Indian?).

Provide more education in schools.

Use public service announcements to remind citizens of water quality issues and solutions.

Coordinate stream clean-ups with the Community Partnership of the Ozarks community-wide clean ups (they provide clean up of large items in low-income communities with community development block grant funds).

Barriers to improving water quality

There is not enough monitoring of stream corridors to prevent dumping.

Prosecutors and judges in many rural Missouri communities do not take action against illegal dumpers.

There is a lack of communication among agencies and organizations (on monitoring, research, etc.).

No standard testing method means that water quality sampling results cannot be compared among agencies/organizations.

There are financial disincentives for proper management for wastes that are often dumped.

There seems to be a lack of "citizenship" among area residents.

Under current laws, dumping on rural property by the owner is permitted, but flooding takes these wastes downstream.

There is a lack of public understanding that the storm water system is not the sewer system.

Conclusion of Summit

It is hoped that this summit was a useful networking tool for the area's environmental and conservation organizations. It is hoped that from this initial meeting, organizations will collaborate to meet some of the identified priorities and other needs included on the "Wish List."

It is possible that the summit will be repeated in a similar or revised format, based on responses to the evaluation form (sent out in this packet). Choose Environmental Excellence would like to thank you for your participation in this summit, and for the important work that you continue to do in the area of environmental and conservation education!